

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY**

May 2026

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY**

LD 2126 An Act to Eliminate the Juvenile Crime of Willful Refusal to Pay a Fine or Comply with the Terms of a Court Order

Public Law 2025, chapter 551 repeals the provision of law establishing the juvenile crime of willful refusal to pay a fine imposed by court order or willful failure to comply with the terms of any other court order.

LD 2142 An Act to Establish Guidance for Awarding General Spousal Support

Public Law 2025, chapter 571 makes the following changes to the laws governing the award of general spousal support.

1. It establishes that general spousal support may be awarded if the duration of the marriage is sufficient that equity requires compensating a spouse with significantly lower income capacity for a portion of the anticipated decrease in standard of living that spouse will experience after the divorce and to allocate equitably between spouses of a marriage of significant duration any financial losses that will be incurred due to the divorce.
2. It establishes rebuttable presumptions that, if the parties have been married for at least 10 years, a spouse whose spousal support income is less than or equal to 65% of the other spouse's spousal support income is entitled to an award of general spousal support; that the award must be for an indefinite period if the parties were married for more than 20 years; and that the amount of spousal support must be calculated by multiplying the difference in the parties' spousal support income by a statutory durational factor based on the number of the years of the marriage. For purposes of these presumptions, spousal support income is calculated using the calculation of "gross income" under the child support statutes, regardless of whether there are any children of the marriage. This "gross income" must then be adjusted to reflect the amount that each spouse is determined or obligated to spend in support of the children of the marriage, if any, as reflected on the child support worksheet.
3. It provides that a court shall make written findings if it determines, based on the factors set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 951-A, subsection 5, that application of a rebuttable presumption would be inequitable or unjust in a particular case. It also amends that list of factors to require a court to consider the tax consequences resulting from the division of the marital property, not just from the sale of the marital home, and whether the spousal support incomes of the parties are sufficiently low or high that application of the presumptive spousal support award would be inequitable or unjust.
4. It authorizes a court to enter a separate spousal support award that will take effect upon expiration of a child support obligation that is expected to expire within three years of a final judgment awarding general support.

Public Law 2025, chapter 571 applies to all actions pending on or after January 1, 2027; however, the rebuttable presumption establishing the method for calculating the amount of general spousal support does not apply to a motion to modify an award of general spousal support issued prior to